

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 071997
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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S/S:DROBINSON

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O 210037Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 071997

EXDIS USSALTTWO AND FOR AMBASSADOR WARNKE

FOL RPT BRUSSELS 05459 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USNATO, ANKARA,
ATHENS, BONN, COPENHAGEN, LISBON, LONDON, LUXEMBOURG, OSLO,
OTTAWA, PARIS, REYKJAVIK, ROME & THE HAGUE DTD 20 MAR 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T BRUSSELS 05459

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MNUC, BE
SUBJECT: ERW: ALLIED CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 68555

1. DESPITE CANCELLATION OF ERW CONSULTATIONS IN NAC
THIS WEEK (STATE 70801) WE BROUGHT TALKING POINTS CON-
TAINED REFTEL TO THE ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH ERW.

2. PRELIMINARY BELGIAN REACTION WAS HIGHLY FAVORABLE,
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PARTICULARLY REGARDING CONCEPT OF AN EXPRESSION OF ALLI-
ANCE READINESS TO ACCEPT DEPLOYMENT IN 18 TO 24 MONTHS
IF THE ARMS CONTROL LINKAGE FAILS. BELGIANS NOTED THAT
THIS CONCEPT APPROACHES THEIR INFORMAL, UNOFFICIAL
SUGGESTION REPORTED IN BRUSSELS 5041 (NODIS/NOTAL).
THEY FURTHER EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT AFTER 18-24 MONTHS
DELAY, SHOULD THE ARMS CONTROL LINKAGE HAVE FAILED,

IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ACCEPT DEPLOYMENT WITHOUT
HAVING TO GO TO PARLIAMENT.

3. BELGIANS FROM THE OUTSET OF PUBLIC DEBATE ON ERW
HAD TOLD US THEY WOULD HAVE FAR PREFERRED TO HAVE
TREATED ERW DEPLOYMENT AS A ROUTINE SUBSTITUTION OF AN
AGING WEAPON WITH A NEWER VERSION. THIS WOULD HAVE AVOIDED
PUBLIC DEBATE OF AN EMOTIONAL AND OFTEN IRRATIONAL NATURE.
THEY SEE IN THE 18-24 MONTH DEPLOYMENT DELAY PROPOSAL
A POSSIBILITY FOR REVERTING TO A QUIETER AND MORE
POLITICALLY PALATABLE WAY OF ACCEPTING ERW DEPLOYMENT.
CHAMBERS UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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